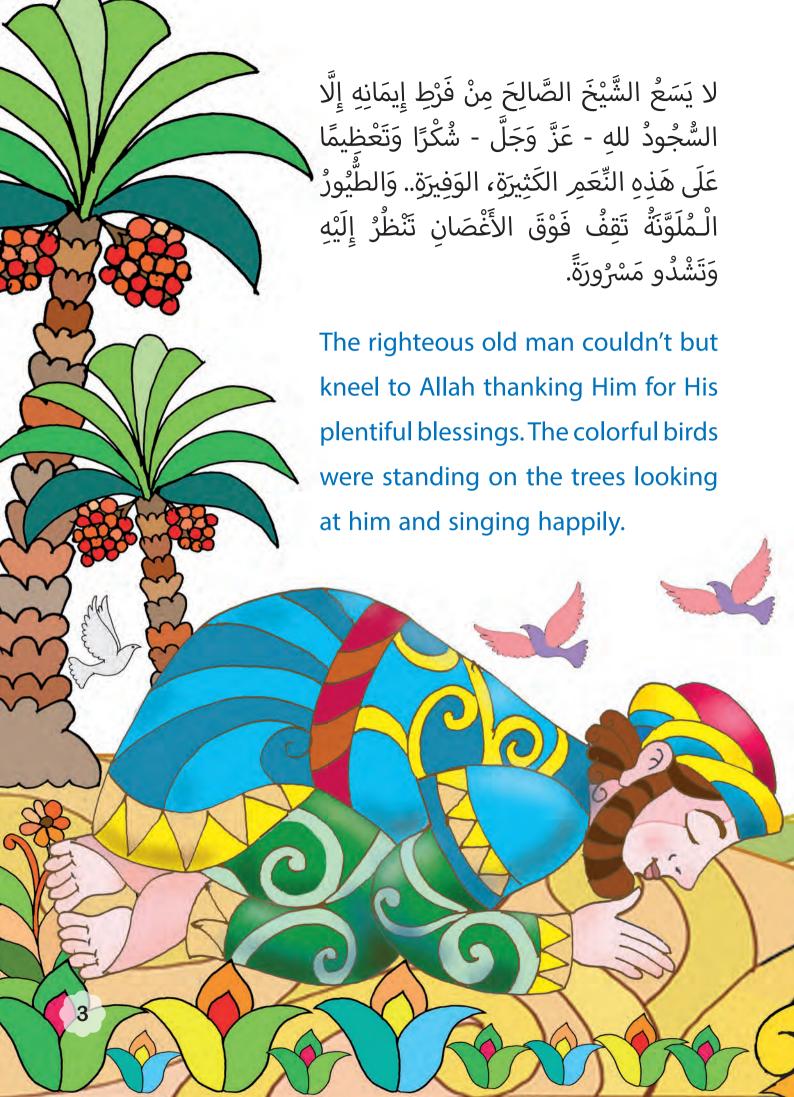


أَحَسَّ الرَّجُلُ الصَّالِحُ أَنَّ نِعَمَ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ كَثِيرَةٌ وَعَظِيمَةٌ، هَا هِيَ الشَّمْسُ فِي الأَفْقِ البَعِيدِ تُرْسِلُ أَشِعَّتَهَا الدَّافِئَةَ إِلَى الأَشْجَارِ فَتَمُدُّهَا بِالقُوَّةِ وَالنَّشَاطِ، وَالطُّيُورُ الْمُلَوَّنَةُ تُغَرِّدُ بِالحَمْدِ وَالثَّنَاءِ للهِ.

The righteous old man looked around him. He could see the great blessings of Allah; the far sun was sending its warm rays to the green trees making them full of life and vividness and the colorful birds were singing sweetly thanking Allah for His blessings.





أَبْنَاءُ الشَّيْخِ الْخَمْسَةُ يَجْمَعُونَ الثِّمَارَ، وَالشَّيْخُ يَقُومُ بِوَضْعِ أَحْسَنِهَا وَأَنْضَجِهَا فِي المِكْتَلِ الكَبِيرِ.. وَهُوَ يَقُولُ: (هَذِهِ خَاصَّةٌ بِضُيُوفِ اللهِ).

Every year, the five sons of the righteous old man collected the fruits of their garden. The old man selected the best of them and the sweetest fruits and put them in a big basket saying, "Those fruits are for the guests of Allah."



أَبْوَابُ الْحَدِيقَةِ مَفْتُوحَةٌ عَلَى مِصْرَاعَيْهَا، وَالنَّاسُ الْفُقَرَاءُ يَهِلُّونَ، وَيَدْخُلُونَ الْبُسْتَانَ وَوُجُوهُهُمْ تَبْتَسِمُ فِي سَعَادَةٍ.. الشَّيْخُ الصَّالِحُ يَسْتَقْبِلُهُمْ بِحَفَاوَةٍ، يُجْلِسُهُمْ فِي ظِلِّ الأَشْجَارِ يَنْتَظِرُونَ.

The doors of the garden were widely open, poor people came in smiling happily. The righteous old man received them warmly and made them wait in the shade of the trees.



النَّاسُ الْفُقَرَاءُ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَى الشَّيْخِ الصَّالِحِ وَإِلَى ثِمَارِهِ النَّاضِجَةِ الَّتِي يَسِيلُ لَهَا اللَّعَابُ، يَدْعُونَ اللهَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ أَنْ يَزِيدَهُ مِنَ الخَيْرِ، وَيُبَارِكَ لَهُ فِي الْبُسْتَانِ.

The poor people looked at the delicious ripen fruits of the good old man and they asked Allah to give him more and more of His blessings.



أَشَارَ الشَّيْخُ الصَّالِحُ إِلَى الْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ، بَعْدَ أَنْ فَرَغَ الأَبْنَاءُ مِنْ جَمْعِ الشَّمَارِ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ فِي حُنُوِّ: هَا هُوَ ذَا نَصِيبُكُمْ مِنَ الثِّمَارِ. قَالُوا لَهُ: أَنْتَ رَجُلٌ صَالِحٌ، كَرِيمٌ.

After his sons had finished collecting the fruits, the righteous old man kindly gave the poor people their share. They told him that he was really a good generous man.



تَبَادَلَ الأَبْنَاءُ نَظَرَاتِ الغَيْظِ وَالغَضَبِ، قَالَ أَبُوهُمْ: لِمَاذَا تَتَضَايَقُونَ يَا أَبْنَائِي، إِنَّ اللهَ - تَعَالَى - يَرْزُقْنَا، وَقَدْ فَرَضَ عَلَيْنَا حَقًّا لِهَوُّلاءِ الْمَسَاكِينِ، لا بُدَّ أَنْ يَصِلَ إِلَيْهِمْ حَتَّى يَرْضَى اللهُ عَنَّا.

His sons exchanged angry looks. "Why are you angry?" Their father asked them.

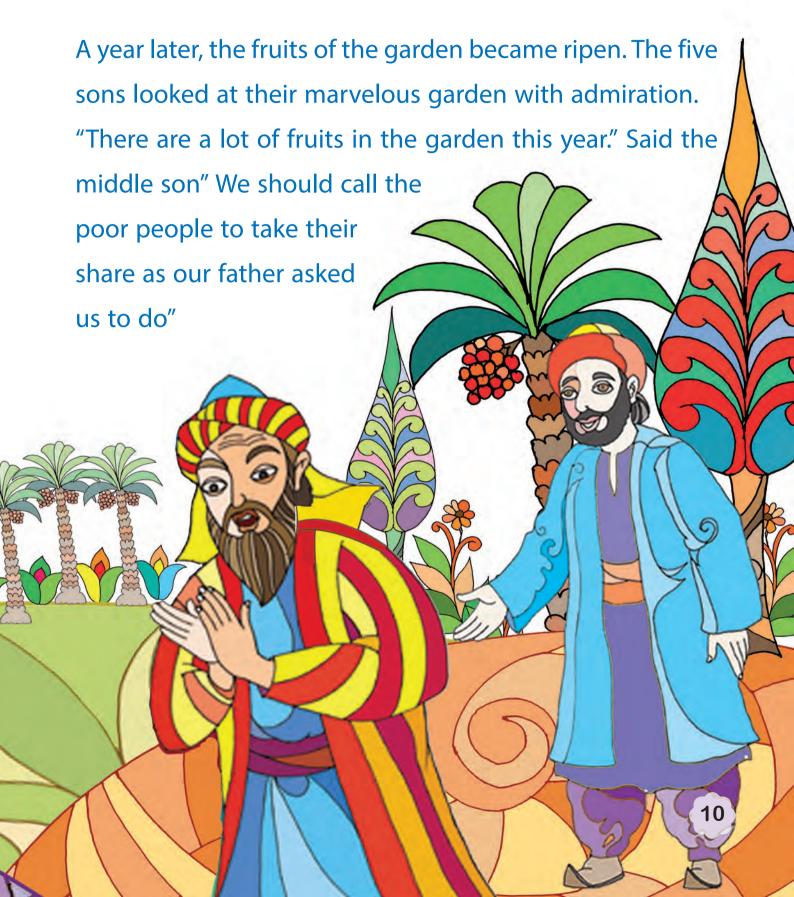
"Allah has given us all these blessings and He has ordered us to give a part of them to the poor so that he would be pleased with us" He said to them.



كَانَ الشَّيْخُ الصَّالِحُ عَلَى فِرَاشِ المَوْتِ، يَجُودُ بِأَنْفَاسِهِ الأَخِيرَةِ، وَقَدْ جَمَعَ أَوْلادَهُ الْخَمْسَةَ مِنْ حَوْلِهِ، وَرَاحَ يُوصِيهِمْ بِالْفُقَرَاءِ خَيْرًا.

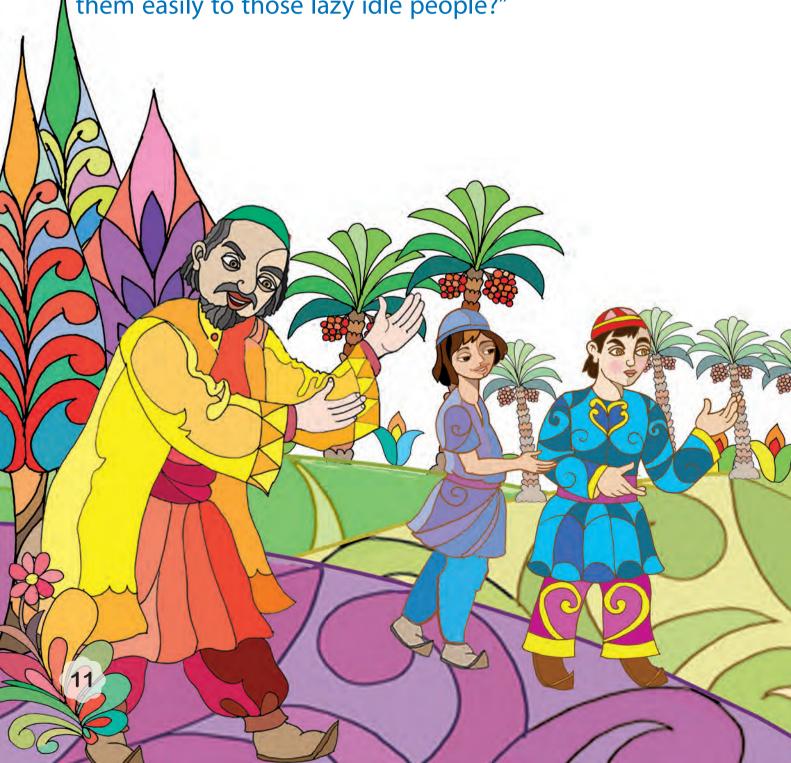


مَرَّ العَامُ، وَتَهَيَّأُ الْبُسْتَانُ لِطَرْحِ الثِّمَارِ.. نَظَرَ الأَبْنَاءُ إِلَى جَمَالِ الْبُسْتَانِ وَرَوْعَتِهِ، وَقَالَ أَوْسَطُهُمْ: إِنَّ الثِّمَارَ كَثِيرَةٌ جِدًّا فِي هَذِهِ المَرَّةِ، عَلَيْنَا أَنْ نَسْتَعِدَّ لِدَعْوَةِ الْفُقَرَاءِ كَمَا أَوْصَى وَالِدُنَا.



قَالُوا لَهُ فِي غَضَبٍ: هَلْ أَنْتَ مَجْنُونٌ؟! نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ تَعِبْنَا كَثِيرًا حَتَّى نَضَجَتِ الثِّمَارُ وَاسْتَوَتْ مِنْ عَرَقِ جُهْدِنَا وَكَدِّنَا، هَلْ نَمْنَحُهَا هَكَذَا بِبَسَاطَةٍ لِهَؤُلاءِ الكَسَالَى العَاطِلِينَ؟!

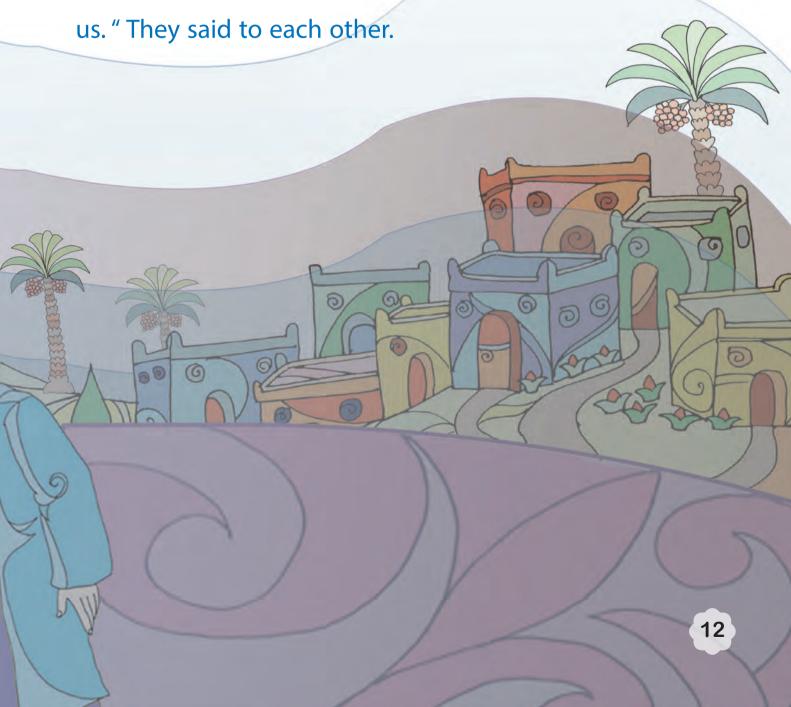
"Are you mad? "They said to him angrily, "We have exerted a lot of effort for those fruits to grow. How can we give them easily to those lazy idle people?"



وَهَكَذَا أَجْمَعُوا أَمْرَهُمْ عَلَى الذِّهَابِ إِلَى الْحَدِيقَةِ لَيْلًا حَتَّى لا يَرَاهُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ وَهُمْ يَجْمَعُونَ الثِّمَارَ. وَقَالُوا: عَلَيْنَا أَنْ نَتَسَلَّلَ فِي بُطْءٍ حَتَّى لا يَشْعُرَ بِنَا أَحَدٌ.

They all decided to go to the garden at night so that the poor people would not see them collecting the fruits.

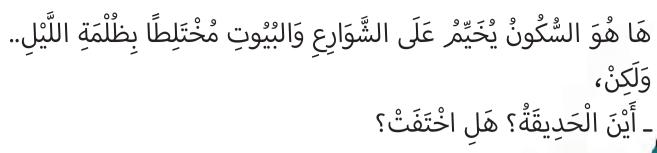
"We should move quietly so that nobody could see or feel

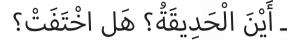


الْتَفَّ الجَمِيعُ بِالظَّلامِ.. كَانَ القَمَرُ مُخْتَفِيًا خَلْفَ كُتَلِ الظَّلامِ الدَّاكِنَةِ، وَالنُّجُومُ فِي السَّمَاءِ لَمْ تَكُنْ تَلْمَعُ كَعَادَتِهَا كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ.. مَشَى الأَبْنَاءُ الْخَمْسَةُ عَلَى أَطْرَافِ أَصَابِعِهمْ مُحَاوِلِينَ أَلَّا يَرَاهُمْ أَحَدٌ.

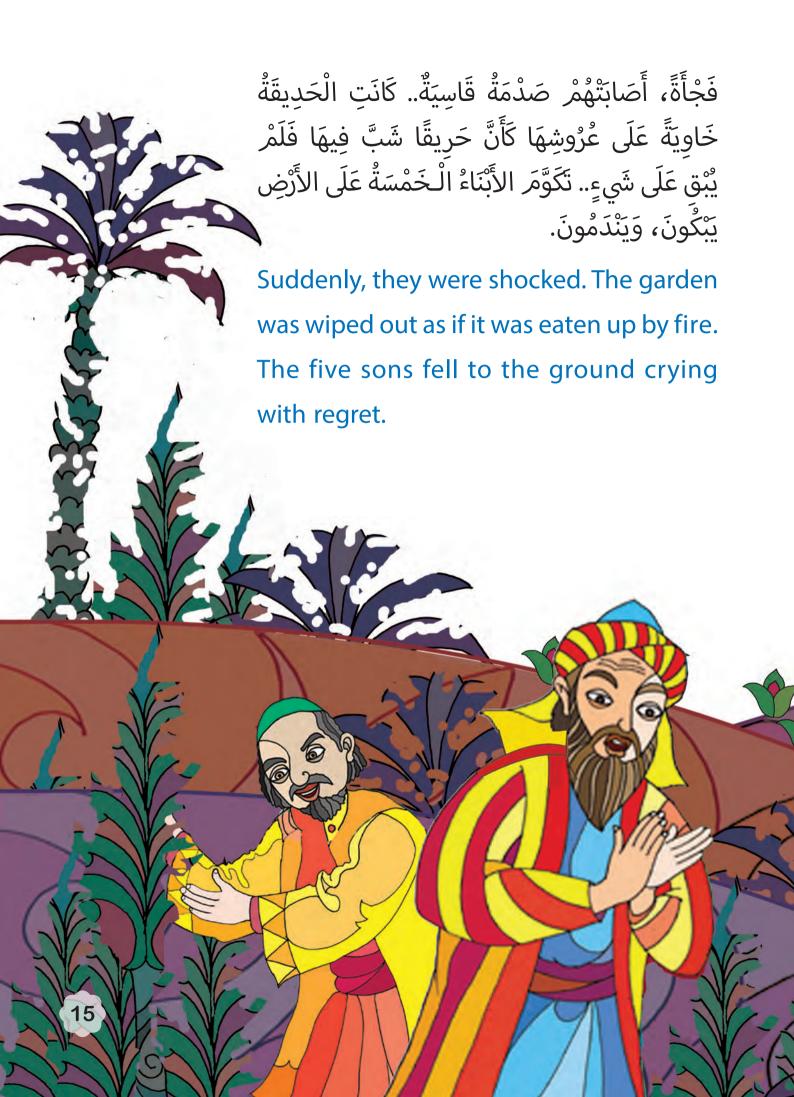
They all walked in the darkness of the night. The moon light was hidden behind the dense night and the stars were not shining as usual. The five sons walked on tiptoes trying not to be seen by anybody.











قَالُوا: إِنَّا لَضَالُّونَ، بَلْ نَحْنُ مَحْرُومُونَ. قَالَ أَوْسَطُهُمْ: أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ لَوْلا تُسَبِّحُونَ اللهَ، وَتَتَذَكَّرُونَ نِعَمَهُ العَظيمَةَ عَلَيْكُمْ.

"We have gone astray and we are deprived from the blessings of Allah" They said.

"Haven't I told you that we should not disobey Allah and we should appreciate His great blessings and thank Him for them?" The middle son said.

